

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07
AID-05 IGA-02 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-01 (ISO) W
-----271230Z 066483 /11

P 270944Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2463
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7// PRIORITY
DA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 0475

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, ET, US
SUBJ: EPMG AMMUNITION REQUEST

REF: A. SECDEF 230025Z DEC 76, B. CMAAG 151309Z DEC 76

1. I HAVE LEARNED FROM VISITING DOD OFFICIALS THAT LETTERS
OF OFFER FOR AMMUNITION REQUESTED BY EPMG NEARLY ONE YEAR
AGO (CASES UCS AND UCQ) HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORWARDED TO
CONGRESS. THIS IS DISTURBING NEWS, BECAUSE GIVEN WHAT I
UNDERSTAND TO BE TIME REQUIRED FOR CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW AND
THEN DELIVERY, THE LONGER INITIATION OF THE PROCESS IS
DELAYED, THE GREATER THE LIKELIHOOD THAT ETHIOPIANS WILL NOT
RECEIVE ANYTHING AT THE TIME THEY HAVE CONSISTENTLY INDICATED
TO US THEY NEEDED THE AMMO. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, WE CAN
ONCE AGAIN EXPECT TO HEAR STRONG SUSPICIONS VOICED ABOUT
OUT ATTITUDES, INTENTIONS AND SINCEREITY, SINCE
ETHIOPIANS HAVE VERY CLEAR IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO
THEIR REQUEST AND THE TIME WHEN THEY WANT IT FULFILLED.
SUSPICIONS COULD EVEN INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS THAT WE HAVE
PERHAPS ABANDONED ETHIOPIA AT A TIME MOST CRITICAL TO
THEM WITH FTAI PROBLEM IN THE WINGS. THUS, DURING
CONVERSATIONS JAN 26 WITH ISA/DSAAREPRESENTATIVES,
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MOND AYALEW MANDEFRO, UPON LEARNING THAT REQUEST HAD
NOT YET BEEN SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS, EXPRESSED STRONG
DISAPPOINTMENT AND URGED THAT PROCESS BEGIN IMMEDIATELY.
HE UNDERLINED THAT HIS COUNTRY NEEDS THIS AMMUNITION
FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES AND THAT THE EPMG ATTACHED
POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS REQUEST.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EPMG ORIGINATED AMMO ORDER IN MARCH 1976 AND FINALIZED IT MID-SUMMER, INDICATING ON BOTH OCCASIONS THAT DELIVERY WAS DESIRED AND NEEDED NO LATER THAN APRIL 1977. THEREFORE TIME TAKEN TO PROCESS REQUEST ALREADY IS OVERLY LONG, GRANTED CONGRESS HAS NOT BEEN IN SESSION SINCE OCTOBER. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT EVEN UNDER OPTIMAL CONDITIONS, APPROVAL PROCEDURE INVOLVES 20-DAY INFORMAL ADVANCE NOTIFICATION PERIOD TO CONGRESS, 30-DAY CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD, SIGNING AND FUNDING NEGOTIATION, AND THEN UP TO 90/180 DAYS FOR DELIVERY OF THE SHELF AMMO ITEMS, WITH MUCH LONGER DELAY FOR PRODUCTION LEAD-TIME ITEMS. THIS SCHEDULE ALREADY PUTS DELIVERY PAST JUNE-JULY DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE DATE, WHICH LOOMED LARGELY IN EPMG RATIONALE FOR ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH 15-DAY WAR SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES IN EVENT OF SOMALI ATTACK.

3. ANOTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION TO KEEP IN MIND IS THAT PRICING DATA IN EXISTING LETTERS OF OFFER (LOA'S) APPARENTLY EXPIRE IN MID-MARCH, ACCORDING TO DOD REPS. HENCE, IF WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO OFFER AMMO LOA'S TO EPMG FOR SIGNATURE PRIOR TO THAT DATE, DATA IN LOA'S WILL HAVE TO BE REVALIDATED, A PROCESS WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY BE TIME CONSUMING, BUT ALSO MIGHT INVOLVE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE FOR ETHIOPIA.

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07
AID-05 IGA-02 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-01 /057 W
-----271124Z 065522 /11

P 270944Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2464
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7//PRIORITY
DA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 0475

4. IN MY JUDGMENT, WHAT WE DO WITH REGARD TO THE AMMO REQUEST CAN HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR FUTURE

COURSE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THIS LIKELY BE CASE WHETHER WE TURN IT DOWN, OR WE STRING IT OUT TO POINT WHERE DELAY SERVES MUCH SAME PURPOSE. AS DEPT AWARE, NEXT SIX MONTHS ARE LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT ONES FOR US-ETHIOPIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHAT WITH PEACE CORPS PHASEOUT, UNCERTAIN STATUS OF HARAR EYE CLINIC, AND WORLDWIDE SCALE-DOWN OF MAAG OPERATIONS. AT MOMENT, AMMUNITION REQUEST REPRESENTS LARGEST SINGLE ITEM WHICH WE HAVE TO KEEP RELATIONSHIP ON TRACK. WITH EACH MONTH THAT DELIVERY IS FURTHER DELAYED, SUCH POLITICAL VALUE AS TRANSACTION REPRESENTS, AND I BELIEVE IT TO BE SIGNIFICANT, DECREASES APACE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE I AM UNAWARE OF ANY DISPOSITION TO TURN DOWN REQUEST WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD BE REGRETTABLE AT THIS LATE DATE, I DO NOT THINK WE OUGHT TO COURT UNNECESSARY TROUBLE BY DELAYING PROCESS ANY LONGER. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS CALLED FOR HIGH-LEVEL REVIEW OF ALL OUTSTANDING ARMS SALES REQUESTS, BUT IN CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONSIDERING THAT THE MATTER HAS SOME URGENCY, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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GIVE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO QUESTION OF WHETHER REVIEW PROCEDURE COULD NOT BE INITIATED ASAP, PERHAPS EVEN TO INCLUDE WAIVER OF 20-DAY INFORMAL ADVANCE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE TO CONGRESS IF DEPT CONSIDERED THIS TO BE FEASIBLE. PRESENTATION OF LOA'S, FOLLOWED BY EPMG ACCEPTANCE BY MID-MARCH EXPIRATION DATE, WOULD BE SEEN AS RESPONSIVE BY ETHIOPIANS, YET STILL GIVE US DELIVERY FLEXIBILITY THROUGH TIME LAG IF EVENTS SUGGESTED THAT WE WOULD WANT TO KEEP OUR OPTIONS OPEN. IN THIS CONNECTION, I ALSO BELIEVE WE SHOULD EXTEND PRICING DATE EXPIRATION DATE BEYOND MARCH 15 IN ORDER NOT TO HAVE TO CONFRONT ETHIOPIANS WITH DEADLINE OF A FEW DAYS FOR LOA SIGNATURE ON REQUEST ON WHICH THEY WILL HAVE HAD TO WAIT FOR ONE WHOLE YEAR.

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3490649
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EPMG AMMUNITION REQUEST
TAGS: MASS, ET, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c9d338d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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